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REMARKS

The final Office Action dated 18 February 2005 has been reviewed, and the comments of the Patent Office considered. Claims 1 and 6-8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 2 and 9 have been rewritten in independent form, and claims 3-5 remain as originally filed. Thus, claims 2-5 and 9 are pending and are respectfully submitted for reconsideration by the Examiner in view of the following remarks.

The notification that claims 2-5 and 9 recite allowable subject matter is greatly appreciated. In accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestion, claims 2 and 9 have been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3-5, which depend from claim 2, are also allowable.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,285,805 to Proper, and claims 1, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Proper in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,413,082 to Cook. These rejections are respectfully submitted to be moot in view of the cancellation, without prejudice or disclaimer, of these claims.

There being no other objections or rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and early notification of such is earnestly solicited.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter this Amendment and Request for Reconsideration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, thereby placing all pending claims in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this reply, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution of the application.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 08-1641. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,



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